Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-60. (cancelled)

61. (currently amended) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder associated with the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6 in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof that binds the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6 to said mammal suffering from said disorder.

62. (cancelled)

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said polypeptide is encoded by ATCC deposit number PTA-1185.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

65-67. (cancelled)

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

70-75. (cancelled)

76. (currently amended) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder associated with the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof wherein said antibody or fragment a) binds to a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:6 and b) inhibits the loss of cartilage.

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77. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

78-79. (cancelled)

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a humanized antibody.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')2 fragment.

85. (cancelled)

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')2 fragment.

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